

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of transferring information from a content supplier from one or more databases, such information including program(s), audio, still pictures, video, or data files (e.g. lists, spreadsheets, reports, documents, presentation graphics, sales information), or combinations thereof to a location that uses an authorizing hybrid disc that permits the use of such transferred information, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an authorizing hybrid optical disc having a ROM portion and a RAM portion;

(b) providing the ROM portion to include a preformed identification signature which is impressed into the ROM portion of the disc and is arranged to be difficult for a pirate to copy;

(c) providing the RAM portion which includes user-specific encrypted information which makes the optical disc unique for a specific user and in combination with the ROM preformed identification signature provides a user-personalized secure signature;

(d) the content supplier encrypting information for each user using the user-personalized secure signature and downloading selected encrypted information to the particular user's memory location; and

(e) a particular user using the user-personalized secure signature to decode such downloaded selected encrypted information each time the user desires to access such information so that after use only the encoded encrypted information remains in the user memory location.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the RAM portion of the hybrid optical disc is the user memory location for the downloaded content.

3. A method of transferring information from a content supplier from one or more databases, such information including program(s), audio, still pictures, video, or data files (e.g. lists, spreadsheets, reports, documents, presentation graphics, sales information), or combinations thereof to a location that uses an authorizing hybrid disc that permits the use of such transferred information, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an authorizing hybrid optical disc having a ROM portion and a RAM portion;

(b) providing the ROM portion to include a preformed identification signature which is impressed into the ROM portion of the disc and is arranged to be difficult for a pirate to copy;

(c) providing the RAM portion which includes user-specific encrypted information which makes the optical disc unique for a specific user and in combination with the ROM preformed identification signature provides a user-personalized secure signature;

(d) a user communicating over a network with the content supplier and selecting information desired to be downloaded;

(e) the content supplier encrypting using the user-personalized secure signature and downloading the selected encrypted information to a user memory location; and

(f) the user using the user-personalized secure signature to decode such downloaded selected encrypted information each time the user desires to access such information so that after use only the encoded encrypted information remains in the user memory location.

4. The method of claim 3 further including the step of a user making payment via the network for the transfer of the selected encrypted information.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein payment is provided by a user by transferring a payment number which can be used for transferring a predetermined payment amount from a commercial institution that can be for a number of content selections to be selected by the holder of the hybrid optical disc.

6. The method of claim 3 wherein the RAM portion of the hybrid optical disc is the user memory location for the downloaded content.

7. The method of claim 3 wherein a channel is used to communicate with the remote location via a network and wherein the hybrid disc is encoded with the address of the remote location.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the channel is the Internet.

9. A method of permitting authorized transfer of information from a content supplier from one or more databases, such information including program(s), audio, still pictures, video, or data files (e.g. lists, spreadsheets, reports, documents, presentation graphics, sales information), or combinations thereof to a location that uses an authorizing hybrid disc that permits the use of such transferred information, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an authorizing hybrid optical disc having a ROM portion and a RAM portion;

(b) providing the ROM portion to include a preformed identification signature unique to a particular user which permits authorization for transfer and decoding information from the database(s) which is impressed into the ROM portion of the disc and is arranged to be difficult for a pirate to copy;

(c) providing the RAM portion which includes user-specific encrypted information which makes the optical disc unique for a specific user and in combination with the ROM preformed identification signature provides a user-personalized secure signature;

(d) a user communicating over a network with the content supplier providing the authorizing user-personalized secure signature to the content supplier and selecting information desired to be downloaded;

(e) the content supplier encrypting using the user-personalized secure signature and downloading the selected encrypted information to a user memory location; and

(f) the user using the user-personalized secure signature to decode such downloaded selected encrypted information each time the user desires to access such information so that after use only the encoded encrypted information remains in the user memory location.

10. The method of claim 9 further including the step of a user making payment via the network for the transfer of the selected encrypted information.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein payment is provided by a user by transferring a payment number which can be used for transferring a predetermined payment amount from a commercial institution that can be for a number of content selections to be selected by the holder of the hybrid optical disc.

12. The method of claim 9 wherein the user-personalized secure signature includes payment authorizing information.

13. The method of claim 9 wherein the RAM portion of the hybrid optical disc is the user memory location for the downloaded content.

14. The method of claim 9 wherein a channel is used to communicate with the remote location via a network and wherein the hybrid disc is encoded with the address of the remote location.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the channel is the Internet.